

(X) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
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EO Citations

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as () S or () C
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CDAVIS

FOIA Exemptions

PA Exemptions

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 AM-CUBANS 07-06 0280
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 AM-CUBANS

FBI TO DETERMINE WHETHER CUBAN EXILES VIOLATED NEUTRALITY ACT
 MIAMI, REUTER - FEDERAL AUTHORITIES MONDAY WERE
 INVESTIGATING AN INCIDENT IN WHICH FOUR CUBAN EXILES FROM THE
 MIAMI AREA ENTERED CUBAN TERRITORIAL WATERS OVER THE WEEKEND.
 A U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER WITH PERMISSION FROM THE CUBAN
 GOVERNMENT, ENTERED CUBAN WATERS TO RESCUE FOUR MEN WHOSE BOAT
 BROKE DOWN ON WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A MISSION TO RESCUE TWO MEN
 WHO WERE ESCAPING CUBA BY RAFT.

TONY CUESTA TOLD THE MIAMI HERALD THE MEN WERE PART OF HIS
 ANTICOMMUNIST PARAMILITARY FORCE CALLED COMANDOS L. HE HAS
 PROMISED TO RELEASE DETAILS LATER THIS WEEK.

ONE MAN ON BOARD ALSO TOLD THE HERALD THAT HE HAD EXCHANGED
 GUNFIRE WITH A CUBAN VESSEL. BUT COAST GUARD OFFICIALS SAID
 MONDAY THEY COULD NOT INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRM THAT.

THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, WHICH WOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO
 PRESS CHARGES AFTER AN FBI PROBE INTO POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE
 U.S. NEUTRALITY ACT, HAD NO COMMENT MONDAY ON THE INCIDENT.

THE NEUTRALITY ACT BARS MILITARY ACTION AGAINST FOREIGN
 GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS NOT AT WAR. THE MEN
 TOLD THE HERALD THEY DID NOT PLAN ON ENTERING CUBAN WATERS, BUT
 WENT ASTRAY WHILE TRYING TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE RAFTERS AT SEA.

MORE THAN 700 CUBANS HAVE FLED IN FLIMSY BOATS OR RAFTS THIS
 YEAR.

ONE MAN INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT WAS IDENTIFIED AS FORMER
 BLACK PANTHER TONY BRYANT, WHO SPENT 11 YEARS IN JAIL IN CUBA
 AFTER A 1969 PLANE HIJACKING TO HAVANA. THE OTHER THREE WERE
 EX-CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO NOW RESIDE IN THE MIAMI AREA.

CUESTA'S COMANDOS L CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN ABORTIVE
 RAID ON CUBA BY THREE MEN LAST DEC. 29. ONE WAS EXECUTED BY A
 FIRING SQUAD AND TWO ARE SERVING 30-YEAR SENTENCES.

REUTER

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